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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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(*PARTS OF)

September 27, 2016

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Dear Mr. President,

On July 6, 2016, you announced that 8,448 troops would remain in Afghanistan beyond the required drawdown date. I assumed that a supplemental funding request would accompany this policy decision. I am still waiting and am deeply concerned that Congress has yet to receive a funding request for these critical missions.

As the father of four sons who have served in the military—including one who served in Afghanistan—I am deeply disappointed you are committing troops to this mission without providing them with the resources they need to succeed in their mission, crucial to protecting American families by eliminating terrorist safe havens.

Let me be clear—my concern is not about the troop levels. I have concerns that too few troops in Afghanistan will provide safe havens for terrorists to attack American families. My concern is in committing troops without a supplemental funding request to support their mission.

An absence of funding, especially as we face a rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), is irresponsible, putting American families at risk. As a result, we would have to formulate a new security strategy that accepts the substantial risk of not meeting our defense needs, and places troops in harm's way.

Your request should include consideration for troop levels and ongoing operations in Afghanistan; resources needed to defeat al Qaeda, Taliban, and ISIL; and coalition resources required to continue assisting the Afghan Armed Forces.

I respectfully request you fulfill the basic responsibility of paying for the 8,448 service members who are being asked to continue the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. If you are unable to fulfill this request, please provide an explanation as to how you were able to come to a decision about keeping troops in Afghanistan, but lack the resources to submit a supplemental funding request. I look forward to your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

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